recommended the sharing of the non-tax revenue of 'Profit Petroleum' arising out of the contractual provisions under New Exploration Licensing Policy (NELP) with the States from where the mineral oil and natural gas are produced in the ratio of 50:50. The Government has accepted this recommendation of the Commission subject to the condition that this should be within the overall ceiling of transfers recommended by the Commission (38% of the gross revenue).

Shortage of supply of LPG in the Metros

2282. SHRI CHO S. RAMASWAMY: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is fact that there is a shortage in the supply of LPG cylinders to the public in the Metro cities of the country;

(b) if so, what steps are being taken to improve the supply position;

(c) whether it is also a fact that public have to wait for more than a month to get refill cylinders;

(d) what is the reason for this shortage;

(e) whether the LPG cylinders are diverted to commercial purpose causing hardships to the common people; and

(f) if so, what steps are being taken to improve the supply?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) to (f) Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) have not reported any shortage of LPG in Metro cities of the country and they are meeting the genuine demand of LPG customers in full. At the same time, strict scheduling and monitoring of supplies is being done by OMC to check possible diversion of LPG to unauthorised uses.

On account of regulated supplies to distributors, in certain markets, rush of refill booking may cause a time gap between the date of refill booking and date of refill supply. However, necessary corrective action is taken by OMCs immediately in such cases. Any specific matter, if brought to the attention of the Government or the Oil Marketing Companies, on any deliberate creation of artificial scarcity, will be investigated and acted upon in accordance with extant Marketing Discipline Guidelines.